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se continua la impresión de lo restante. Además muchos de los volúmenes tienen índice de las escrituras que contienen, de manera que la revisión o búsqueda de documentos no ofrece gran dificultad.

De los demás archivos sólo existen inventarios manuscritos y aun algunos carecen de ellos por no ser posible su confección sin ordenar previamente los papeles que contienen y que ingresaron a la Sección completamente revueltos.

Próxima a ser trasladada provisionalmente al nuevo edificio de la Biblioteca Nacional, mientras se construye el extenso y cómodo local que con tal objeto se levantará al costado poniente del mencionado palacio de la Biblioteca, la Sección de Manuscritos quedará organizada definitivamente en poco tiempo más, en condiciones que le permitan eliminar los defectos de que adolece ahora y experimentar sin tropiezos el ensanche de sus servicios, consiguiente a su violento desarrollo a causa de los nuevos archivos que recibirá entonces, y que la convertirán en uno de los más ricos, sino en el más valioso, de los archivos históricos de la América hispánica.

TOMÁS THAYER OJEDA,  
Jefe de la Sección de Manuscritos  
de la Biblioteca Nacional de San-  
tiago de Chile.

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[TRANSLATION]

## THE MANUSCRIPTS SECTION OF THE BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL OF CHILE

### I. ITS ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

By virtue of a special law, the government of Chile, in 1846, acquired the library of the illustrious patriot, Don Mariano Egaña. A portion of this library consisted of a collection of manuscripts treating of the most varied matters, which served later as a base for the creation of the Manuscripts Section of the Biblioteca Nacional. This was the sixth section of the above institution at the time of the enactment of the Ordinance of August 8, 1861.

A few years later, in 1867, the collection consisted of six hundred pieces distributed in 113 volumes, to wit: 48 folio volumes, 60 quarto, and 5 octavo.

In May, 1876, there was added to the Biblioteca Nacional the private library of Monseñor Don José Ignacio Victor Eyzaguirre, which contained, in addition to 4,000 books, a collection of documents which the erudite and progressive priest bequeathed to the above mentioned institution.

In succession there were added to these collections another series of papers used by Don Claudio Gay in writing his *Historia General de Chile*; the books and expedientes of cases in the tribunal of the *Consulado*; and the archives of the general staff of the Peruvian army relative to the first stage of the war of the Pacific, which had come into the possession of the Chilean army in 1879.

In July, 1885, a wellknown journalist and an active investigator of the national history, Don Justo Abel Rosales, published an extensive article, bristling with facts, in which he pleaded for the creation of a real Manuscripts Section, in which should be housed the several historical archives scattered about in various public offices. Until that time the Biblioteca Nacional had only 116 volumes of manuscripts of the Fondo Antiguo, 12 volumes of Royal cédulas, many of which were printed, and 223 legajos of unbound and uncatalogued documents from the archives of Eyzaguirre, the *Consulado*, the War of the Pacific, the Inquisition, and the Jesuits, which represent, at the most some 1250 volumes more, valuable beyond any doubt, but at that time almost impossible of consultation.

In spite of its creation, the Manuscripts Section led a languid existence until a new director of the library, in 1886, namely, Don Luis Montt, gave it a vigorous impulse. Thanks to his efforts, the following collections were joined to it: the Archives of the old Capitanía General, the transfer of which was ordered by a supreme decree of September 25 of that year; the Registers of the Notaries of Santiago; the Archives of the Royal Audiencia, of the Contaduría Mayor, of the Intendencias of Biobío and part of the Judicial district of Concepción. At that time the manuscript collection of the famous Chilean author and politician, Don Benjamin Vicuña Mackenna was also acquired, as well as the archives of Don Carlos Morla Vicuña, which were presented by his widow, and another series of documents scattered about here and there in the possession of private persons.

Señor Montt, who united with his vast bibliographical erudition, his interest in the study of our national history, thus gave practical form to what he was wont to repeat frequently as an aphorism, namely, "There is no such a thing as a useless paper", and his elevated judg-

ment successfully prevailed over the judgment of those persons who were of the opinion that some of those rich archives ought to be destroyed as now totally lacking in value.

Señor Montt must, therefore, be considered to be the real creator of the Section, in that he worked not only as an investigator but also in the revision of the catalogues and even in the arrangement itself of the papers.

Upon the death of Señor Montt in 1910, the Manuscripts Section already had 12,500 volumes, distributed in the following form:

<i>Archives</i>	<i>Volumes</i>
Old archives of the Library . . . . .	198
Capitanía General . . . . .	1,045
Collection of cédulas . . . . .	104
Consulado . . . . .	50
Mining tribunal . . . . .	14
Contaduría Mayor . . . . .	5,000
Copies of manuscripts from Archivo de Indias . . . . .	63
Eyzaguirre . . . . .	60
Inquisition . . . . .	600
Jesuits . . . . .	467
Notaries (1559-1800) . . . . .	976
Royal Audiencia . . . . .	3,098
Vicuña Mackenna . . . . .	336
Morla Vicuña . . . . .	125
War of the Pacific (1879) . . . . .	33
Judicial district of Concepción (1820-1854) . . . . .	90
Intendency of Concepción . . . . .	136
Intendency of Biobío . . . . .	105
Copies from the Hydrographic Office . . . . .	19
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>12,519</b>

Unfortunately the rooms of the Biblioteca Nacional set aside for the Manuscripts Section proved to be small. Moreover, it was even necessary to demolish one of them in order to facilitate the construction of the palace of the Tribunals, and the other rooms were damaged in consequence of the earthquake of August, 1906. Nevertheless, in the last decade, 328 volumes have been received in the Section, as follows:

Archives of the Cabildo de la Serena . . . . .	36
Archives of the Government of Angol . . . . .	59
Private archives of Don Benjamin Vicuña M. . . . .	52
Archives of the Fondo Antiguo . . . . .	23
Added to various archives . . . . .	158

Within a very short time will be begun the construction of that part of the new building of the Biblioteca Nacional which has been set aside for the Manuscripts Section. With a shelving capacity of more than 200,000 volumes, and provided with all the conveniences necessary for keeping them safe and making them easy of consultation, the Section is called upon to experience a rapid increase. It can be estimated that the Section will immediately duplicate its present collection of 13,000 volumes when it receives the old notarial archives, those of the Intendencias and Governments and the judicial records of the colonial corregidor districts, besides many others which are now scattered about the provinces from one end of the Republic to the other.

## II. PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL ARCHIVES

The heterogeneous make-up of some of the archives renders it a difficult task to give a slight idea of each of them—a disadvantage rendered much greater since the value of the documents varies according to whether they are estimated at their intrinsic value, according to their rarity, according to the rank of the persons from whom they proceed, or according to the interesting details set forth in them or having a bearing on their origin, or according to another series of causes which it is even difficult to remember in a moment. The review will consequently be incomplete because of the omission of matters of interest concerning them, and faulty because of the brevity with which it is necessary to discuss the rest in order not to spin out this article to a greater length than belongs to it from its character.

*Archives of the Fondo Antiguo.*—This consists of 223 volumes composed of matters so different that taken as a whole they resemble an encyclopedia. Among them are found works of jurisprudence, law reports, judicial memoirs, royal cédulas; didactic and theological texts and works of literature, poetry, and history; notes on Chilean medicine, mineralogy, and meteorology, public works, education, government matters, logs of voyages, commerce, industry, arts, statistics, etc., and a collection of documents relative to the tribunal of the Inquisition or to the history of Chile, copied from the Archives of the Indies of Simancas.

As curiosities may be enumerated the original manuscripts of the *Crónica del Reyno de Chile*, by Mariño de Lobera, 1595; of the *Cautiverio Feliz*, by Pineda y Bascañan, 1673; the Register of Spaniards and Indians of the Province of Chiloe, 1785; the *Cronicón Sacro-Impe-*

*rial de Chile*, by Ramírez, 1895; the preliminaries in regard to the founding of the College of the Natives, the erection of the Academy of San Luis in 1796, the plan of studies and creation of the Instituto Nacional in 1813; the letters and papers of Vera y Pintado, Don Manuel de Salas, Father Camilo Henriquez, and other patriots of American independence.

*Archivo de la Capitanía General*.—This contains the papers relating to the political and military government during the colony. There are very few pieces belonging to the sixteenth century, but they increase gradually, and indeed from the middle of the following and up to the first years of the nineteenth century the documentation is varied and abundant. The total number of pieces is estimated at more than 20,000.

The archives are subdivided into various sections, in each of which certain matters predominate, although there is really no hard and fast classification. Following the numerical order of the volumes, the matters to which these refer are as follows:

Private causes . . . . .	Vols. 1-227
Causes relating to mines . . . . .	" 228-279
Criminal causes . . . . .	" 280-339
Expedientes relative to the alcabala . . . . .	" 340-357
Expedientes relative to navigation . . . . .	" 358-381
Books of attorneys . . . . .	" 382-383
Administrative matters . . . . .	" 384-422
Expedientes relative to Temporalities of the Jesuits . .	" 423-472
In regard to grants of land and encomiendas of Indians	" 473-566
Private petitions, memorials regarding services, de- nouncements of waste lands, etc . . . . .	" 567-575
Expedientes relative to the jurisdiction of Aconcagua .	" 576-577
Surplus lands . . . . .	" 578-579
Ancient memorials . . . . .	" 580
Expedientes relative to foreigners . . . . .	" 581
Various receipts . . . . .	" 582-584
Mercantile matters . . . . .	" 586-589
Relative to the warehouses of Valparaiso . . . . .	" 590-596
Relative to public functionaries . . . . .	" 597-609
Relative to notaries public . . . . .	" 610-621
Relative to public works, official correspondence, private administrative matters of the royal treasury . . . .	" 622-714
Collection of royal cédulas, 1576-1816 . . . . .	" 715-798
Official correspondence, copy books of decrees, edicts, resolutions, and other governmental matters . . . .	" 799-814
Relative to the militia, army, pensions, fortifications, residencia judgments, subsidies, garrisons, war with England, government of Juan Fernández, fortified towns, and presidios and repairs of barracks. . . . .	" 815-876

Relative to debts and public wealth, the half annats, consolidated capitals, imposts, balance, gifts, customs, guards, confiscations, royal treasury, incomes, and tithes . . . . .	Vols. 877-927
Urban police, public works, foundations of towns and cities, mints, mails, roads, bridges, cutwaters and canal of Maipo . . . . .	" 928-954
Relative to the encouragement of agriculture, the Carolino College, the college for the natives, and the University . . . . .	" 955-959
Relative to prisons, <i>obras pias</i> , hospitals, and epidemics	" 960-967
Elections and auctions of public offices, and other similar expedientes of the cabildos of Cuyo and Concepción	" 968-998
Ecclesiastical matters, Jesuits, etc . . . . .	" 999-1036

The volumes following belong to the period of independence or to that of the Republic, and are of a purely administrative character.

Estimated as a whole, the archives of the Capitanía General are the best for a study of the institutions of colonial government, which are very little known as yet, but very poorly estimated by the generality of historians.

It is difficult to give a clear idea of the real importance of these archives for historical investigations relative to the above mentioned title. However, we shall endeavor to set forth a few details.

The correspondence of the president with subordinate officials during the years 1781-1804 consists of 17,970 pieces bound in 11 volumes. Many of them are circulars sent simultaneously to many functionaries.

The confidential correspondence with the king is copied into five volumes and contains about 3,000 letters written during the same period of time. These five volumes alone have supplied enough material for an interesting and useful piece of work which was planned and will be concluded during the present year by Professor Charles E. Chapman with a group of students of the Instituto Pedagógico.

The copybooks of grants of lands and encomiendas of Indians made between the years 1670 and 1708 number fourteen and contain 420 land titles and about 900 encomienda titles. The first are useful for ascertaining the origin of rural property and for the reconstruction of the native place names, while the second contain many lists of Indians with thousands of native names, a rich and unexploited material for the study of American philology, as well as memorials and certificates of rewards and services and of lists of the most prominent members of colonial society.

Among the administrative expedientes those are of special interest which relate to the foundations of cities, towns, and forts; those concerning conferences with the Indians, of the Araucanian war, and of the attempts to convert the natives to the Christian faith or to civilize them; and lastly, sentences of residencias and other processes drawn up for the purpose of setting forth the conduct of subordinate officials and other functionaries in the discharge of their duties.

*Archives of Cédulas and Royal Orders.*—These archives contain over 8,000 pieces all belonging to the colonial period, one-tenth perhaps of which are printed. In addition there are ten other volumes containing indices and copies of documents of this class which are kept in the Archives of the Royal Audiencia, Contaduría Mayor, Archbishopric, Municipality of Santiago, and in the ancient Archives of the Cabildo de la Serena. Although it may not be necessary to state as much, all those documents contain resolutions and royal orders both of a general and particular nature in regard to the government of Chile. Among these last named there are a multitude of appointments of civil and military functionaries, concessions of rewards and pensions, permissions to contract matrimony, pardons from fines, expulsion or naturalization of foreigners, and many other matters. Of course those of general interest, such as laws, ordinances, regulations, and explanation or interpretation of their provisions are of chief importance.

*Archives of Mining Tribunal.*—This tribunal was created in Chile in fulfilment of a royal order given in Aranjuez, February 12, 1797. It contains a large portion of the expedientes drawn up by the administrator general of the department of mining, Don Antonio Martínez de Mata, in his general inspection of all the mining settlements of the country which was made during the years 1788–1790, for the purpose of creating and defining the boundaries of the deputations, examining into the condition of mine labor, sugar mills, and foundries, and ascertaining the urgent needs in order to encourage the development of mining in Chile. There are similar expedientes, but of less importance belonging to the latter years of the colonial period, as well as lawsuits between parties.

Supplemental to these archives because of the material which they contain are volumes 228–279 of the Archives of the Capitanía General, comprehending petitions and mine sentences which were made before the creation of the special tribunal.

Aside from their usefulness in ascertaining the development of mining in Chile, these archives offer an unexploited and lucrative field as a



base for the organization of mining explorations in old and perhaps rich mine districts which are abandoned or unknown at present.

*Archives of the Tribunal of the Consulado.*—These contain documents and expedientes which passed before this tribunal which was created in obedience to a royal order dated March 28, 1795, for encouraging the development of commerce and trying matters purely commercial.

*Archives of the Contaduría Mayor.*—In these rich archives are kept whatever bears on the collection or expenditure of the revenue of the royal treasury. They contain some documents of the sixteenth century, and very many documents of the following centuries down to 1840, the year to which those conserved in the Biblioteca Nacional go.

In reality these archives are made up from no less than a score of different archives, from as many other offices or administrative divisions. Chief of these latter are those of the treasuries of Santiago and Concepción; the custom houses of Valparaíso, Copiapo, Huasco, Coquimbo, Constitución, Talcahuano, Valdivia, and Chiloé; those of the mint; those of the tobacco revenue; and those of the construction of public works, bridges, cutwaters, etc.

Historically considered, the richest documentation is that relating to the armies, both royalist and patriotic, which fought in the war for independence. The muster lists will allow the reconstruction of both armies, to learn the effectives who fought in the battles, the list of casualties suffered, and even the names of those killed or wounded. Other documents give news of the armaments, reveal details, permit the remaking of service sheets, and at times even show military plans.

As the rendition of accounts was very tedious, there are found as proofs of the items of receipts and expenses, entire copies of memorials or patents of rewards or appointments in which appear the services of those favored; of documents proving the foreign status of those who were to pay the tax to which foreigners were liable; details of the production of the manufactures of rigging, cloth, blankets, etc., for supplying the army; and many other vouchers of very different kinds, but which may be of use in special investigations relative to foreign immigration and the development of industries during the colonial period; to the development of commercial importing and exporting after the gaining of independence, and, in general, to matters connected with political economy.

*Archives of Copies from Archivo de Indias.*—These consist of copies of documents relative to Chile conserved in the Archivo de Indias of Seville. These documents were discovered during the investigations

of Señores Vicuña Mackenna, Medina, and Morla Vicuña, and other investigators of Chile. Some have been published in the *Colección de Documentos Inéditos* of Señor Medina, in the *Estudio Histórico* of Señor Morla Vicuña, and in various works of Señor Vicuña Mackenna, but the greater part of them have not yet been used for investigating the study of the history of the country.

*Archives of Eyzaguirre.*—These contain papers on very diverse matters, although those of a religious nature predominate. Among them are found expedientes relative to the episcopal visits of Bishop Alday to the diocese of Santiago and of Bishop Marán to that of Concepción; the appeal sanctioned by Rodríguez Zorrilla against the ecclesiastical cabildo of Santiago in 1808; and papers relative to the bishop of Epifania.

Among the most interesting works may be cited the narratives of the voyages of Father Mascardi to the regions of the Nahuelhuapi, 1667–1672 and of Don Luis de la Cruz from Concepción to Buenos Aires, 1806; the originals of the histories of Córdoba y Figueroa and of Rodríguez Ballesteros; and a journal of the events occurring in Santiago during the years 1765–1773, written by Don Fernando Antonio de los Ríos, vice rector of the University of San Felipe.

But the most important papers of these archives are those pertaining to the period of the war of independence and among these especially one volume of original decrees of the government *juntas* corresponding to the years 1810–1816, and lastly, during the republican period, the process drawn up against Admiral Blanco Encalada in 1821.

*Archives of the Inquisition.*—These contain almost exclusively papers relative to the economic side of the tribunal of the Holy Office; for instance, auctions of the goods of condemned persons, executions, and collections of debts which other persons allotted as pensions or for other reasons in favor of the same tribunal. There exist, however, copies of letters or communications with other Spanish tribunals.

The seat of the tribunal of the Inquisition was at Lima, but its jurisdiction embraced all the Pacific coast from Panama down, so that the captaincy general of Chile lay within the boundaries assigned to this tribunal.

The study of the documents would throw much light on colonial trade and the inquisitorial proceedings in financial matters which competed with it. They will also be useful for investigating the problem of the immigration of Jews to Latin America, and the persecutions of which their members were the object, especially the Portuguese Jews against whom the inquisitorial investigation and punishment were implacable.

*Archives of the Jesuits.*—This rich collection belonged to Don Antonio de Paz, an official of the Biblioteca Nacional of Madrid, from whom the government of Chile bought it, through the intermediary of Don Carlos Morla Vicuña, then secretary of the Chilean legation in France. The latter in a report dated Seville, August 24, 1876, wrote as follows:

The manuscript collection in possession of Señor Paz consists for the most part of originals belonging to the Jesuits of Hispano-America from Mexico to Chile. These documents which were transferred to the Peninsula in 1767, immediately after the expulsion of the Society of Jesus from that continent, were housed in a department of the Ministry of Grace and Justice, called the Temporalities, which was broken up during the last revolution. The papers were sold by the pound to butcher shops and groceries, and were fast on the way to complete destruction when a gentleman named Don M. Javier Bravo, a Spaniard living in Buenos Aires, who was then by chance in Madrid, heard of their existence and acquired them. Señor Bravo returned part of the collection to the Spanish government and undertook the publication of the rest. As he did not have any preparation by special studies for this kind of work, Señor Bravo was not successful in his undertaking and had to give up the manuscript collection above mentioned for the amount he was owing to his literary collaborators and to the editor of the first two volumes of the publication.

This collection is the one offered for sale to the Supreme Government two years ago through my mediation, and which the Minister of Foreign Relations authorized your Excellency [the Chilean minister in France] to buy if I judged it advisable. As yet no determination has been made relative to this matter, since as I had no opportunity to examine the manuscripts personally, I was ignorant of their value and whether or not they were worth the expense that their acquisition would require.

As I have told your Excellency before, this time I have had the opportunity to examine the above mentioned collection personally. It is kept in ten enormous trunks. It is divided into cardboard sections forming volumes, the distribution following the order of the various regions into which colonial America was divided. This classification would permit of the formation of a complete catalogue, paper by paper, and legajo by legajo, of all the material, without any great difficulty or space of time, and would facilitate the preparation of the collection for the use of the public.

The section corresponding to Chile, although one of the least abundant, is composed of very interesting documents which ought to be acquired for the Biblioteca Nacional of Santiago at any cost. Among them are original letters from Fathers Luis de Valdivia, Gaspar Sobrino, Luis del Castillo, Antonio and Gonzalo de Covarrubias, Diego Rosales, Alonso de Ovalle, etc.—all of them famous in our historical annals, some as missionaries and pacifiers and the rest as Chilean chroniclers. That part of this section which refers to the defensive war, by which at the advice of Father Valdivia the reduction of the Araucanians was undertaken in 1610, is very complete from the point of view of the father missionaries. There are also among their papers many adverse reports and criticisms made against the new plan by the military chiefs who desired to con-

tinue active warfare. In this same section are found all the documents referring to the rural and urban properties owned by the Society of Jesus in Chile, with their deeds and plans annexed, many of which were in colors. The want of these documents has provoked in Chile, as I have noted, more than one lawsuit in regard to the boundaries of estates. If they were in the Biblioteca Nacional, even should they not serve to solve such questions, they would always be very useful in a purely literary and historical sense. The number of letters relative to the colleges, churches, and missions, of which the Jesuits had charge throughout the whole extent of the country is not less considerable.

The sections of the collection corresponding to Peru and to Paraguay, which included the provinces of Tucumán and Río de la Plata, as the provinces were divided by the Jesuits, undoubtedly have very many documents which are of equal interest to Chile and which would be of certain value in the present boundary questions, with the study of which I am charged. The portions corresponding to Brazil, the Viceroyalty of Sante Fé, and Mexico are quite far distant from Chile and do not interest it except for one or more direct incidents, for many of the religious who distinguished themselves in Chile usually went to continue their labors into these regions and vice versa. However, these documents like the others are of intrinsic value for the history of the countries above mentioned, and in the case of Mexico, the richest.

The entire collection is composed of thirteen thousand pieces more or less, understanding by "piece" documents and expedientes, many of which are voluminous.

Señor Morla Vicuña also adds these words in a note:

This collection was acquired by the state and has been sent to Chile. I undertook its organization, document by document, and I even made the detailed catalogue of a considerable part of them; but in this task as well as in that of the study of the boundaries question, I was interrupted by the exigencies of the late war [of the Pacific]. It is advisable, however, that as much of the catalogue as has been completed be printed, and it will be a simple matter to continue the arrangement and classification in Santiago. The collection which had been owned by Señor Paz has been completed with various other items of papers pertaining to the same archives which were found in possession of old book dealers in Madrid. The manuscripts proceeding from the houses owned by the Jesuits in Spain and which do not refer to America, were found some years ago in possession of the erudite Señores Zabalburu. These with our collection and the choice documents presented by Señor Bravo to the Academy of History in Madrid, constitute all that is left of the archives sequestrated from the Society of Jesus when it was suppressed.<sup>1</sup>

To the words of Señor Morla Vicuña, it is fitting to add that the greater part of the papers of this collection are posterior to the expulsion of the Jesuits from the Spanish dominions, and consist of ordinances

<sup>1</sup> C. Morla Vicuña, *Estudio Histórico sobre el Descubrimiento y Conquista de la Patagonia y de la Tierra del Fuego*, pp. 34, 35.

issued in order to obey the order of expulsion, of inventories and auctions, or administration of the sequestrated goods and proofs of the payment of pensions to the expelled religious, some of whom were still living when American emancipation took place. This collection contains, therefore, documentation covering the entire colonial period, and not only of the Hispano-American colonies, but also of the Philippines, Canaries, and even of some houses of Spain itself.

When the archives reached the Biblioteca Nacional, this institution still was without a bindery, so that it was necessary to send the books and manuscripts to private binderies for binding. This caused an almost irreparable loss of some forty volumes which were half destroyed in a fire that broke out in the bindery where this work was being done.

The total number of volumes, including the impaired ones, was 498, but in order to facilitate consultation, two or more account books were bound into a single volume, thus decreasing the total number of volumes by 18, which are distributed as follows:

Chile . . . . .	Volumes numbered from 1-136A
Spain . . . . .	137-150
Spain, Canaries, and Philippines . . . . .	151
Italy (relative to pensions) . . . . .	152-153
Bolivia . . . . .	154-170 and 436-437
Peru . . . . .	171-232
Argentine Republic . . . . .	233-298
Mexico . . . . .	299-380
Paraguay . . . . .	381-382
Quito . . . . .	383-396
Bogotá . . . . .	397-419
Panama . . . . .	420
Antilles . . . . .	421-425
Philippines . . . . .	426-428
Various others . . . . .	429-435
Half burned in the fire	
42 volumes kept in fourteen boxes.	

Aside from the anacronic nomenclature, this classification undoubtedly suffers from the commission of a serious error, namely, that of not preserving the old separation of the documents belonging to each viceroyalty and the captaincies general dependent on them, so that the investigator must keep in mind the geographical division of America in order not to lay himself open to some possible downfall such as would happen without doubt to the person who limited himself to examining volumes 381 and 382 to find information about Paraguay

and should pass by the sixty-five volumes referring to the Argentine Republic.

The archives of the Jesuits have been utilized by various republics in the defense of their rights in the lawsuits concerning boundary questions sustained with neighboring countries.

They are also called upon to serve as a useful source of information for American ethnography, both for the fixing of the regions where each people lived, and also because of the abundance of native geographical or personal names which are conserved in those papers.

The inventories of the libraries, of the tools and animals of the estates, the number of the slaves and of the household goods in general, all offer a vast field for historical investigation which will permit not only of a better knowledge of the so greatly discussed activities of the Society of Jesus, but also the degree of development of colonial society.

*Archives of the Notaries.*—These begin with a fragment of the register of the notary Pedro de Salcedo in the year 1559. This is followed by a volume of Juan de la Peña, 1564–1566; other fragments of the registries of Alonso del Castillo, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1593, and 1594, and from 1585 to 1800 follow the registers without any attempt at continuity even when one or the other of the registries of any of the notaries who discharged their duties at the same time are missing.

Aside from the registries of Santiago, there is a volume containing fragments of registers of various notaries of Concepción who held office between the years 1769 and 1843.

The total number of instruments is perhaps in excess of 200,000 and their contents furnish the most vivid and faithful picture of Chile and our ancestors in past centuries. The change in customs especially can be shown easily and its evolution even followed by examining those documents.

Wills were more common than they are today, and in them no one neglected to commend his soul to God and to the saints, or to make his confession of faith. Some added minute data relative to their life or to their progeny and many highly interesting statements. The most extensive will is that of the *maestre de Campo* General Jerónimo de Quiroga, which was signed in 1716 and consists of 141 pages.

Dotal letters or the evidence of the money which the parents or relatives of the bride usually gave to the husband at the time of the celebration of marriage are also very numerous and recall a custom which has now fallen into complete disuse.

Among the interesting instruments it is of interest to note the promises not to gamble, not to make loans, and other similar promises, in which the signer imposed on himself not only a fine for the benefit of the denouncer, of the royal treasury, or of some religious institution, but also condemned himself to go to jail for a certain time; instruments of pardon for some crime usually extended after a money settlement between the interested parties; testimonies of happenings accounted miraculous; "exclamations", or instruments in which those signing them declared that they had signed other instruments against their will, and to which consequently they denied all value or effect; the "agreements" or contracts for domestic services, and documents relative to a variety of other matters.

In the Archives of the Notaries, one may observe the development of society, the evolution of customs, the progress of industry and commerce, and in general of the colony itself.

*Archives of the Royal Audiencia.*—This tribunal was established in Concepción first in 1568, suppressed in 1575, and reestablished in Santiago in 1609 where it functioned until 1817 except for a short period of the Old Country, 1811–1814.

However, old expedientes dating from 1552 are conserved in these archives, as well as various others initiated in the sixteenth century, documents,—copies dating from 1544 and originals dating from 1550. But the great majority are posterior to the creation of the Audiencia of Santiago.

Inasmuch as the sphere of action of the Royal Audiencia was much greater than that of present-day tribunals of justice, and it exercised in addition functions of criminal jurisdiction over the other authorities of the country, these archives contain many expedientes relative to competency of jurisdiction. The application of laws or regulations, questions of etiquette, appeals to force, etc. But among them all, those of greatest historical interest are the residencia sentences, which as one knows were drawn up against the presidents and captains general, the corregidores, and other subordinate authorities upon leaving office, and in which after the charges made against the departing official by aggrieved parties and the rebuttal made by the departing official had been heard the latter was condemned or absolved in accordance with the merits shown by the records.

The matter of processes and sentences between parties does not differ, as one may easily imagine, from those nowadays. There are, however, many expedientes of cases between slaves or Indians and their

masters or encomenderos because of bad treatment and other injuries which were inflicted on them which are useful for ascertaining the relations of the various classes among themselves and the laws protecting inferiors from abuses by the peninsular.

The approximate number of pieces contained in these archives is 14,000, classified as follows:

Ordinary civil suits . . . . .	10,200
Expedientes of historical value . . . . .	2,200
Expedientes relative to encomiendas of Indians, slaves, etc. . . . .	700
Expedientes of criminal matter . . . . .	600
Expedientes relative to mines . . . . .	300

These archives are completed by a collection of royal provisions, sentences of examination or review expedited by the royal audiencia during the entire time that it functioned. This series of papers which so far forms more than 60 volumes, although many others are still to be formed, is particularly interesting because there are found here notices of many expedientes that have been lost and sometimes the complete synthesis of them with the main documents inserted in the sentences pronounced by the tribunal.

*Archives of Vicuña Mackenna.*—As happens frequently in private collections the make up of these archives is heterogeneous, and it is composed principally of notes and original drafts of Señor Vicuña Mackenna, his archives and private correspondence, a series of copies made in the Archivo de Indias; documents and letters relative to the chief political events of Chile and of the persons concerned therein; a multitude of newspaper or magazine clippings; colonial expedientes, etc.

The archives that belonged to the Fathers of the Country, Generals Don Bernardo O'Higgins and Don José Miguel Carrera and the original manuscript of the *Historia de Chile* by Father Diego Rosales are the most valuable of all.

*Archives of Morla Vicuña.*—These consist principally of two large groups of papers, namely: the autographic drafts of Don Claudio Gay, the original documents and copies of other documents collected by the aforesaid for the writing of his *Historia de Chile*; and the copies made in Spain by Don Carlos Morla Vicuña for his *Estudio Histórico sobre el Descubrimiento y Conquista de la Patagonia y de la Tierra del Fuego*, and especially, for the defense of the rights of Chile in the boundaries question with the Argentine Republic.



The archives are distributed in the following manner:

Manuscript of the <i>Historia de Chile</i> , by Gay . . . . .	Vols.	1- 7
Old original manuscripts . . . . .	"	8-40
Old manuscripts and notes made by Gay . . . . .	"	41-42
Copies of documents collected by Gay . . . . .	"	43-53
Copy of the <i>Relación Geográfica e Hidrográfica del Reino de Chile</i> , sent to the king by the president Don Manuel de Amat in 1761 . . . . .	"	54
Geographical documents relative to Chile . . . . .	"	55
Copies and extracts of old papers relative to Chile . . . . .	"	56
Copies of old chroniclers and historians of Chile, namely, Pineda Bascuñan, Córdoba y Figueroa, Olivares, Pérez García, Martínez, etc. . . . .	"	57-65
Copies of Logs . . . . .		66
Copy of the <i>Historia del Reino de Chile</i> by Fray Antonio Lora, 1780 . . . . .	"	67
Copy of the <i>Diario Político</i> by Don José Miguel Carrera . . . . .	"	68
Copy of the <i>Historia de la Revolución de Chile</i> , by Fray Melchor Martínez . . . . .	"	69
Original papers relative to the government of the island of Juan Fernández, 1832-1834 . . . . .	"	71
Copies of documents from the Archivo de Indias . . . . .	"	72-123
Original relation relative to the navigation of the Rio Bermejo, 1790 . . . . .	"	124
Memoirs of the viceroy of Buenos Aires, Marqués de Loreto, 1790 . . . . .	"	125

*Archives of the War of the Pacific.*—These consist almost entirely of documents from the general staff of the Peruvian army, which fell into the hands of the Chileans at the end of 1879. It complements the Chilean documentation and is of considerable use for passing a more accurate and impartial judgment on the first part of the international conflict. They are distributed as follows:

Official notes, April to November, 1879 . . . . .	Vols.	1-7
Confidential matters . . . . .	"	8
General orders to the reserves . . . . .	"	9
State diaries of the forces, returns, casualties, etc. . . . .	"	10-13
Accounts relative to provisions, expenses of military hospitals, etc . . . . .	"	14-17
Copybook of instructions, decrees, and passports . . . . .	"	18
General in chief and commandants general of division. . . . .	"	19
Communications with various authorities . . . . .	"	20
General correspondence . . . . .	"	21-22
Table of persons (alphabetical index of individuals of the army and of information pertaining to them). . . . .	"	23

Copies of telegraphic communications . . . . .	Vols.	24
General munition depot and its delegation . . . . .	"	25
General supply depot and its dependencies . . . . .	"	26
Commissariat general and its delegation . . . . .	"	27
Correspondence of the general naval commander . . . .	"	28
Active and casualties lists of armament . . . . .	"	29
Log of Bitácora of the monitor Huascar, from April, 1879 until its capture at the battle of Angamos, October 8 of the same year . . . . .	"	30
Log of the campaign which started on May 16, 1879 against Chile, aboard the monitor Huascar, written by Second Lieutenant Don Jorge F. Velarde. This seaman died at the battle of Iquique (May 21, 1879), and the log was continued by the second lieutenant by brevet, Don Pedro Gáñezon until the 29th of the same month . . . .	"	31
Log of the frigate captain of the Chilean navy, Don Manuel Thompson, from March to June, 1879 . . . . .	"	32
Log of the volunteer Don Ernesto Riquelme, aboard the <i>Esmeralda</i> and the <i>Covadonga</i> , 1874-1875. Riquelme was one of the heroes of the epic of Iquique and the <i>Esmeralda</i> and the <i>Covadonga</i> were the Chilean vessels which took part in it . . . . .	"	33

*Judicial Archives of Concepción.*—These are composed of criminal and civil sentences, and contain some processes because of subversive conspiracies that may have an interest for political history. They begin in 1810 and end about 1854.

*Archives of the Intendencias of Concepción and Biobío.*—The first corresponds to the years 1819-1840 and the second to those of 1829-1875, and both are purely administrative. However, in that of Concepción are found a few documents relative to the campaign of Chiloé which put an end to the Spanish domination there in 1826.

*Copies from the Hydrographic Office.*—These are copies of documents relative to nautical history. They were printed in great part in the *Anuario Hidrográfico de la Marina de Chile*.

*Archives of the Government of Angol.*—These are also modern archives of an administrative character. They may be useful for the study of questions having to do with the Indians and their definitive pacification.

*Archives of the Cabildo de la Serena.*—These commence in the year 1680 and end in 1818, but they contain also a few documents anterior and posterior to the years indicated. The classification of the matters treated in the papers is as follows:

Volumes 1- 3	Acts of the cabildo . . . . .	1778-1800
" 4- 9	Cedulas, edicts, etc . . . . .	1698-1823
" 10-11	Royal provisions . . . . .	1680-1813
" 12-13	Visitas of the Indians . . . . .	1692-1792
" 14-16	Civil causes . . . . .	1682-1818
" 17	Criminal causes . . . . .	1720-1813
" 18-21	Expedientes relative to mines . . . . .	1714-1812
" 22-25	Dispatches and various communications . . . . .	1780-1814
" 26	Hospital . . . . .	1740-1816
" 27	Relative to militia . . . . .	1775-1814
" 28	Matters relative to the Indians . . . . .	1690-1811
" 29-31	Matters of government . . . . .	1600-1808
" 32	Revenues of balance and estates . . . . .	1810-1817
" 33	Revenues from the monopoly . . . . .	1755-1813
" 34	Expedientes relative to lands . . . . .	1790-1817
" 35	Copies of various legal writs . . . . .	1716-1829
" 36	Book of receipts of San Agustin . . . . .	

Beyond doubt these archives contain some papers that will prove useful for completing the history of various incidents of the war of independence. The most important, however, are those referring to the indigenes, and these have a bearing on Chilean ethnology which has been very little studied, and which is clothed with greater interest in Coquimbo whose inhabitants have been submitted to the influences of several American cultures from the north and east, and probably as well from the south.

*Miscellaneous manuscripts.*—Among these documents are worthy of mention a map or sketch of Chile designed in Spain in 1768 by Don Ambrosio O'Higgins, later president of Chile and viceroy of Peru, for the purpose of conveying an idea of the number and location of the properties of the expelled Jesuits; an "Old Testament" to which Don J. Sylvester, professor of languages and of Hebrew in the rabbinical college of Varsovia, ascribed an age of a thousand years, basing his opinion on the change of color in the parchment, the wear of the catgut with which it was sewed, and the very imperfect characters of the writing, according to his statement in a report of August 30, 1875; and two plans executed in 1760 by order of the viceroy of Peru, Don Manuel de Amat, which contain a project for the irrigation of the valleys of Arica and Tarapacá.

The last might perhaps serve as a base for a study relative to a possible modification in the meteorological and climatic condition of those provinces, for they contain marked regions "which were cultivated formerly when it rained" and others which were still cultivated

in 1760, but which are nevertheless sterile at the present time. The data noted on those plans accord with those existing in the parish of Iquique in expedientes drawn up for the purpose of checking the disorders or immoralities of which those regions were the scene during the time of the harvests. There are also other indications and even foundations for believing that the inhospitable conditions of the deserts of northern Chile have grown worse during the last four centuries, but that matter can not be elucidated on in this article.

Among the other manuscripts may be mentioned "El Vasauro", an unpublished poem by Licentiate Pedro de Oña, the oldest of Chilean poets, who was born in Angol in 1570, and the "Historia de la Provincia de Chiloé bajo la Dominación Espanola", written in four volumes, and left unfinished by Don Abraham de Silva, who died prematurely in December, 1908.

### III. REGULATIONS, FACILITIES, AND CATALOGUES FOR CONSULTING THE SECTION

Título VIII. of the Regulations of the Biblioteca Nacional, enacted June 12, 1890, refers to the Manuscript Section and contains the following rules relative to the consultation of documents:

Art 17. The duties of the Chief of this Section are as follows:

1. To furnish to readers the manuscripts for which they ask after having received a signed receipt on which are noted the date of the petition, the number of the volume, the archives to which it belongs, and the residence of the petitioner.

2. To see that the persons who make copies or notes do not damage or spoil the manuscripts by writing on them or by making any kind of mark.

Art. 18. Manuscripts especially reserved can not be examined without permission from the director.

Art. 19. The series of reserved manuscripts shall consist of an index made by the Director and approved by the Minister of Public Instruction.

Art. 20. Persons below the age of 20 years can not be admitted to this section as readers.

Within these rules it is aimed to give the public all the facilities by which they can work to the greatest advantage and comfort.

The cataloguing of the manuscripts is still deficient, but the subdivision of the archives and the chronological arrangement of some of them simplifies and usually accelerates investigation.

The best of the existing catalogues and the one which will be used as a model for future catalogues is that of the Archives of the Royal

Audiencia. It suffers, perhaps, from the defect of being too voluminous, because of the very large type used in printing it, but on the other hand it is easy to manage. It consists of three volumes, which comprehend 6,210 pieces contained in the volumes numbered from 1-2100 inclusive.

Inasmuch as most of the pieces are judgments between parties, the descriptions of these pieces have been set down according to the alphabetical order of the surnames of the complainants, or of the person, functionary, or corporation of whom the catalogued piece especially treats or refers. In addition are added the citations or summonses, with the names of the defendants and notes under the main description in which are mentioned the principal documents, royal cédulas, grants and plans of surveys of lands, total letters, wills or powers for bequeathing; and in general of those of historical value and which without that method it would be difficult to find. Of all these citations are made in alphabetical order as above said. The following transcription will give a better understanding of the procedure followed:

ALHUÉ (Tierras de).—See *Merced* (Convento de la), No. 1000.

GUZMÁN (Beatriz de).—See *Merced* (Convento de la), No. 1000.

1000 MERCED (Convento de la).—Judgment followed with Guzmán (Beatriz de), relative to a better right to the lands of the valley of *Alhué*. 1634-1643.

Vol. 310. Pp. 309.—The first part of this judgment is found in the second piece of volume 599.

It contains the will of Don Rodrigo de Quiroga (February 24, 1580); and the copy of a concession granted by Don Pedro de Valdivia in favor of Doña Inés Suárez of the lands of the valley of *Alhué* (July 11, 1546).

QUIROGA (Rodrigo de).—See *Merced* (Convento de la), No. 1000.

SUÁREZ (Inés).—See *Merced* (Convento de la), No. 1000.

VALDIVIA (Pedro de).—See *Merced* (Convento de la), No. 1000.

As above seen, this piece has five cross references, so that the person looking for information relative to the above mentioned persons or of the lands in litigation, or in general of the history of that epoch has within reach the data necessary for the locating of the material.

The catalogue of the Archives of the Jesuits relating to Chile is made up in like manner, but contains a double reference to the pages of the volume and the sheets contained in the piece, but this generally makes it confusing to one not accustomed to consult that index. References are written in the following form: 1797; Vol. 86, p. 10, page 263, sheets 19; or Year 1797; volume 86, piece 10th, page 263 of the volume in which the piece commences; the manuscript is made up of 19 sheets.

The catalogue of the Capitanía General is rather an inventory, and incomplete, of the pieces contained in each volume. Nevertheless, although it is much slower and less accurate to consult than the catalogues of the Royal Audiencia and of the Jesuits, investigation is considerably facilitated by examining it. Moreover, the minute cataloguing of these archives has been begun with excellent results, for the first seventy volumes have yielded more than 2,000 pieces or 40 per cent more than the 1,245 that appear in the present index, not counting cross references which must exceed 3,000. This so striking difference is due to the fact that the first work had to be done in a space of time, so that it was impossible to catalogue a multitude of petitions and small expedientes one, two, or three sheets long, yet each of which required as long a time as a voluminous legajo. For this reason such papers were massed together under the symbol of first, second, or third series of miscellaneous papers.

The catalogue of the Archives Vicuña Mackenna also consists of a mere inventory, with a few commentaries as to the value of certain documents. It consists of 229 pages in double column quarto and can be examined rapidly, inasmuch as it is subdivided into series of papers of very diverse character which no one need examine at the same time, as can be proved by comparing some of the chief ones which are indicated below.

Vols. 33-35.—The Revolution of April 20, 1851.

“ 42-44.—War to the death, 1819-1820.

“ 47-50.—The revolution of 1859.

“ 85-112.—Archives of General O'Higgins.

“ 113-122.—Archives of General Carrera.

“ 195-221.—Campaign against Peru and Bolivia, 1837-1839.

“ 222-255.—Campaign against Peru and Bolivia, 1879-1883; and other events relative to that period.

“ 265-304.—Copies of documents from the Archivo de Indias from Simancas, 1532-1700.

In order to facilitate the consultation of the Archives of the Notaries, a *Guía* has been printed, in which are enumerated the wills and powers for making wills, dotal letters, and some other documents of special interest. The part already published takes up to volume 591, but the printing of the balance is being continued. In addition, many of the volumes are provided with an index of the documents contained therein, so that the examination or search for documents entails no great difficulty.

Manuscript inventories only are found for the other archives, and are even lacking to some of them, as it is impossible to make them without first arranging their papers which came into the Section in complete disorder.

Soon to be transferred provisionally to the new edifice of the Biblioteca Nacional, while the extensive and commodious building which is being constructed west of the above mentioned palace of the library, the Manuscripts Section will be definitively organized within a short time under conditions which will permit the elimination of the defects from which it is suffering at present and to experience without obstruction the extension of its services in consequence of its violent development because of the new archives which it will then receive and which will convert it into one of the richest, if not one of the most valuable of the historical archives of Hispanic America.

TOMÁS THAYER OJEDA

Chief of the Manuscripts Section  
of the Biblioteca Nacional of Santiago,  
Chile.

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#### THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE HISTORY SECTION, FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY AND LETTERS, UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Because of the augmenting importance of the volumes of documents which the National University of Buenos Aires is publishing through the History Section of its Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, it is desired, in this article, to give an idea of their value, and of the scope of the vast and admirable undertaking of which each of these volumes is a carefully prepared, harmonious part. As source material for history, the documents presented in the series under consideration usually relate solely to the territory now constituting the Argentine Republic, although occasionally, with respect to matters which cannot be so definitely segregated, there is furnished the whole related process of laws and procedure, which, in affecting the Spanish colonies of America, concerned Argentina among the rest. The value of the volumes which the University of Buenos Aires is issuing, is, however, more than solely the historical value of the documents they so accurately present. As models and encouragement they are invested with